# THE BETHLEHEM STAR, VEILED AND UNVEILED:

IN ITS VARIOUS

New-Teſtament Magnitudes:

AFTER THE MANNER OF

STERNHOLD AND HOPKINS.

(See Singing Pſalms IV. CIII. CXLVI.

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*This is the true Light, which lighteth every Man that cometh into the World;—for He made the World.*

*I AM the Light of the World;—for in Him is no Darkneſs at all:—He bringeth to Light the hidden Things of Darkneſs, and what is done in a Corner proclaimeth (as it were) upon the Houſe-top; or in ſight of the Sun.*

*Take Heed, therefore, that the Light which is in you be not Darkneſs;—if ſo, how great is that Darkneſs!*

*Beloved, let us walk in the Light, as He is in the Light; ſo ſhall we be the Children of the Light; and have Fellowſhip one with another; being waſhed in the precious Blood of the Son of God, as a Lamb ſlain without Blemiſh and without Spot; and thus cleanſed from all Sin.*

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Texts of Scripture relative to the Subject of the following Poem.

*There ſhall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Scepter ſhall ariſe out of Iſrael.* Numb. xxiv. 17.

*Whereby the Day-Spring from on high hath viſited Us,*
Luke ii. 78.

*We have alſo a more ſure Word of Prophecy, whereunto ye do well to take Heed, as unto a Light that ſhineth in a dark Place, until the Day dawn, and the Day-Star ariſe in your Hearts.*
2 Pet. i. 19.

*And I will give Him the Morning Star.* Rev. ii. 28.

*I AM the Root and Offspring of David, and the Bright and Morning Star.*
Rev. xxii. 16.

46. 12. 17. 47.

# INTRODUCTION.

YE Astronomers, who oft gaze
On the ætherial ſky,
The ſcripture doth a Star reveal,
All other ſtars outvie;
'Tis not confined to your art,
For all men may it view;
Sinners of every tribe and tongue,
Share in its influence too.
Stars often drop and loſe their light,
Yea, nightly diſappear;
But this bright Star for ever ſhone
In its own hemiſphere.
The brighteſt Star ye e'er did ſee,
Is darkneſs to its light;
The heavens themſelves appear as clouds
O'erſpread with ſable night.
'Tis far beyond your dark ideas,
Nature can't comprehend
When, where, and how it firſt began,
Nor ſcan it glorious end.
It teaches ſuch philoſophy,
You will not find in vain,
Knowledge to know ſuch earthly Stars,
As of This ſplendor gain.
Then to the Words of Truth turn ye,
Attentive therein gaze;
All through the ſame ye may it ſee,
And wonder at its blaze.
O may its light enter your heart,
As in it to believe:
If ſo, aſſuredly ye ſhall
Eternal life receive:
And with this Star, when all ſtars ceaſe
To give their light, or ſhine,
Have part in never ending day,
That's both pure and divine;

But if ye do its rays deſpiſe,
Place others in its room;
'Twill light you to a place at laſt
Where it will you conſume.

WHen come the time that Prophecy
Muſt appear to be true,
Of a pure Virgin MESSIAH
Came in the fleſh to view:
In Bethlehem, as 'twas of old
Foretold his birth ſhould be,
Within a ſhelter'd place for beaſts,
There God and Chriſt come ſee.
What tho' obſcure, what tho' recluſe,
Began his race on earth,
The heavens thought fit for to proclaim
Their King and Maker's birth:
I'th Eaſtern Pole they did hang out
A ſtar, ſuch ne'er before
Gave like bright light, nor ever will
Any ſtar do ſo more.
Perhaps of John it was a type,
The meſſenger of God,
Who of his Son to Sinners ſent,
Was to prepare the road.
This Star Three Wiſe Men did attract,
On it thereon to look,
Its powerful brightneſs did excite,
Their admiration took.
Its antitype fill'd them with faith,
To follow where it led,
When each with rich gifts of the earth
Himſelf had furniſhed.
From thence then unto Bethlehem,
They come, and there enquire
Where the real King of the Jews was,
To ſee him they deſire:
For we have ſeen his ſtar (ſay they)
In the Eaſt, and are come

To worſhip Him.—To Herod this
News proved troubleſome,
Note, Here one King cannot endure
Another to ariſe;
His pride doth into envy work,
And Murder doth furniſe.
Thus ſin conceiv'd bringeth forth death,
Where God permits its ſo;
Innocents fall a ſacrifice
To this their Saviour's foe.
He calls a council, and they quote
Their forefathers records,
That in Bethlehem ſhould be born
Their Prophet, King, and Lord:
On this, the baſe diſſembler doth
Private the Wiſe Men call,
And diligently enquir'd of
This Star, which p ov'd his fall:
So thus his deeds they b ing dark,
Dark ſchemes took to practiſe;
But God abhortive did make prove
The plots he did deviſe.
Go ſearch the young child out, and when
Ye have him found, return
To me again, that alſo I
To worſhip him may come.
Note here, few arts that tend unto
The ſhedding hum n blo d,
Can be in execution put
Without falſehood abſurd.
They leave the King, when lo the ſtar
Appear'd to them again;
Went before them, came and ſtood o'er
Where the child did remain.
When they this ſtar again beheld,
Exceeding was their joy,
Tho' far they'd travell'd by its light,
Grudged not the employ.

Note, after this 'twas ſeen no more,
To them ceaſed to ſhine,
Give place to that which did it ſend,
And ſhone in other clime.
" This ſtar's Star was the angels ſong,
" The wiſe mens joy became;
" Of ſuch Iſrael's conſolation,
" Who waited for his Name:
" But Herod's terror, fear, and dread,
" Jeruſalem's ſcourge and rod;
" The ſcribes and phariſees dire hate,
" Who rejected their God." [*Burkitt.*
But whom vile ſinners did receive,
In whom Gentiles did truſt,
To whom Idolaters did turn,
And own'd Holy and Juſt,
They come into the houſe and ſee,
Their God and King, a CHILD!
In's mother's lap,—methinks the babe
He at their preſence ſmil'd:
No Eaſtern Magi ne'er before
Saw ſuch a ſight as this;
But now in heaven they ſee this Star
Crown'd with eternal bliſs.
They ſtrait fall down and worſhip him,
Thus acknowledge him God:
And then the teſtimony of
Their love to him afford.
Note, Faith alone is all in vain,
If Works it don't produce;
Without each other's found in one,
Prove of but little uſe.
If then ye do the faith profeſs, (*or* poſſeſs,
Let it ſhine forth in deed;
The hungry feed, the naked cloath,
And help ſuch who're in need:
They preſent to him gifts and gold,
With frankincence and myrrh,

The richeſt of the Eaſtern ſtore,
As gifts to him prefer.
This Star the Temple was of God,
To which theſe Kings did bring,
Their riches, honors, yea themſelves
Lay proſtrate beſo e him.
Thus was the Gentiles honour'd firſt
Their offerings to beſtow,
Unto the God and Lord of heaven,
Who ſtoop'd on earth thus low.
Theſe coſtly ſpices were ſold for
What doth anſwer all things;
Supply'd Joſeph and Mary's wants,
In them the King of Kings.
With neceſſaries furniſh'd for
Departure out by night;
As the angel bid, ſo from thence,
To Egypt take their flight.
Note here, of what was all his own,
With him they freely leave;
Looking for no return, for he,
Alas! had nought to give.
Had nought to give—ſtop here my pen,
Nor ſuch raſh phraſe deviſe;
For he was Lord of heaven above,
And all beneath the ſkies:
The cattle on a thouſand hills,
The trees of all the field:
Birds in the air, fiſh in the ſea,
To him obedience yield.
Yet true it is, himſelf doth ſay,
The birds they had their neſts,
Foxes their holes,—he, Son of Man,
And God!—no place to reſt.
Why was it ſo? becauſe he did
Deign thus to become poor,
That ſinners riches might poſſeſs,
Which ever ſhall endure,

Yea, it is this alone that can
E'en make poverty ſweet;
And ought, yea will, give true content,
Where ſcarceneſs hath a ſeat.
Jehovah to ſecure his Son,
From becoming a prey
To Herod – in a dream bid them
Go home another way.
Thus in the ſhadow of his hand, (*or* wing
He ſafely di[illegible] him hide;
That he a poliſh'd ſhaft might be,
I'th quiver he'd provide.
They having ſeen this Star of ſtars,
Went home well ſatisfy'd.
And doubtleſs of that glory ſpake,
Which they in it eſpy'd,
The prop[illegible]ets of this Star make boaſt,
In all God's works to men;
'Twas their commiſſion, end, and ſcope,
IT to make known to them.
O prophecy! O word of God!
How glorious doſt thou ſhine
In Jeſus' every act and deed
How God-like! how Divine!
See this Star in the temple ſhine,
Which gave to Simeon light;
Said to him he ſhould God's Chriſt ſee,
E'er his day clos'd in night:
He propheſy'd this Star ſhould be,
Set for the fall and riſe
Again of many in Iſra'l,
Spoken againſt, deſpis'd.
This Star, juſt riſing, did eclipſe
The earthly ſtars o'th age;
Whence came its brightneſs did confound
The wiſdom of the ſage.
Thus did the world by wiſdom not
Know God, neither his Son,

When by his folly and weakneſs
These wonders the were done.
This Star the propheteſs did light,
Anna of Aſer's tribe;
Who many years for it did wait,
Where now it did preſide:
Not inviſible, as it had
Ever till now appear'd;
But in the body God prepar'd,
Was now about to rear.
Note, Women are not to be thought
Void from the office high,
Of ſerving God within his houſe,
And having bread thereby:
Yet note, 'tis in an humble ſort,
With faſting and with pray'r,
Such offices as becomes them,
Soberly, and with care.
Ye matrons too, who dwell without,
Share much of this world's ſpoil,
Deal of God's bounty to the poor,
Thus dip your foot in oil.
So light your lamps that bright ſhall burn
T'th' glory of his name;
Rejoice the Sons of men, yea too
God with a heavenly flame.
This Star in Egypt was eclips'd
Until the tyrant dy'd,
Soon after which it did begin
War 'gainſt thoſe it defy'd.
When come the time for it to blaze,
Unto no court it went;
But in the dreary wilderneſs
Was to John Baptiſt ſent.
Thus high things this Star did not court,
Content with what was low:
Lord grant, we may do the ſame from
Example he did ſhow.

At Jordan ſee this Star in all
Its th ee-fold glory ſhine ;
His God, itſelf, the heavenly Dove,
To its glory combine.
God ſaw fit after his aſſent,
Given unto his Son,
I'th wilderneſs to try this Star,
In Satan's fiery urn :
So by his Promiſe did him drive,
'Mong'ſt beaſts to have abode,
Where came the Serpent, earth's firſt curſe,
Who knew that thorny road.
There ſee this Star cope with a ſtar,
Which down from heaven he threw,
As the reward of its de erts,
For claiming merit due :
With treb'e force this Star attackd'
Its orb where once it ſhone ;
Th ee times receiv'd more ſharp return,
And made its folly known
See this Star on a mountain ſhine,
Cloathed with fleſh and blood,
Preach'd and revers'd his own law, which
Was h ly, juſt, and good.
Which twice the Divine Fingers wrote,
On four tables of ſtone;
I'th' mount of God to Moſes gave,
Being with him alone.
See this Star from the mount deſcend,
Diſeaſed ſinners come,
And by its warm benignity,
Note what wonders was done.
It lepers cleans'd without a pool,
Unbent the crooked ſtrait ;
The ſhaking palſy made ſtand ſtill,
Bloody fountains abate.
The lame (like harts) riſe, leap and walk,
The dumb talk, yea do ſing,

Bury'd, unbury'd corpſe this Star,
To life again did bring.
Unſtop'd deaf ears, made madneſs calm,
Dark ſpirits diſpoſſeſt,
Who tho' enclos'd in mortal frames,
Verbally him confeſt.
Yet note their envy, e'er they part,
The objects rend and tare;
They'd do ſo now, if we were not
This Star's peculiar care.
This Star to ſhew itſelf was God,
Body and Soul could ſave;
Many whom his compaſſion reach'd,
Rich Mercy too forgave.
Its light the darkneſs did diſſolve,
And made the blind to ſee:
Emblem what the world was at firſt,
'Fore God gave his decree.
Itſelf the blazing Goſpel Star,
Unto the poor did preach;
Its own power the word gave force,
And did the conſcience reach.
It did reprove, rebuke, exhort,
Scribes phariſees did vex;
No difference paid to young or old,
To ſtation or to ſex.
Thus this Star did kindle a fire,
Which ſhall not be put out,
'Till by the ſame it judge the world,
And ſaints its juſtice ſhout.
This Star was not confin'd to earth,
Upon the water ſhown;
Oft on the liquid element
Did make its glory known.
Thro' cities, towns, and villages
This Star did ſhine moſt bright,
Until the time appointed came,
That it ſhould ſit in night.

But firſt, ſee this bright Star impart
To eighty-two its ray,
Gave power to do wh t he had done,
And pr ach Himſelf the Way.
Behold the vile aſtronomers,
Who came this Star to take;
Were by its glory driven back,
And a full halting make.
Then did this Star lower its own
Eſteem——to them ſubmit;
It takes, they do with't what they pleaſe,
—No more than God ſaw fit.
Twice after ſhin'd this Star again,
O bleſſed bleſſed blaze!
Confeſt itſelf the Son of God,
Which Pilate d d amaze.
His wonder o'er, he ſtill purſu'd
This Star unto the Death;
When lo it blaz'd, and bowing cry'd,
"Tis Finiſhed," in Death.
Here ſee this Star ſet in a cloud,
It long wiſh'd for before;
Once was enough, it never will,
It never can ſo more.
Angels did watch it even while,
It in oblivion lay,
Kept it ſecure, hoping to ſee
Again its glorious ray:
They ſaw it in the linen wrapt,
The mantle o'er it ſprea ,
When in the dark and cloudy day,
'Twas free among the dead.
Tho' under eath a cloud, it gave
Life unto breathleſs clay;
Who from their graves aroſe and went
To the city their way:
But ſtruck the watchers of Pilate
Into a profound ſleep;

Thus man was not to ſee it riſe,
Nor man could not it keep.
It roſe,—did the diſciples join,
As to Emaus went;
Made their hearts burn while it proclaim'd
What the old ſcriptures meant.
This Star the fiſhes made ſubmit
Unto its ſovereign will,
Rais'd fire of coals them on to broil,
And fiſhers nets did fill.
This Star by its own power enter'd
Th o' doors that were made faſt;
Shew'd the eclipſing clouds it bore,
When it was overcaſt.
Again commiſſion more at large
To the apoſtles gave;
Take heed ye who now have the like,
It due obedience craves.
After this Star had ſhone its length
Of time on earth below;
Angels attended when it did
To its Meridian go.
In what it came from heaven to do,
Aſcended there again;
In bleſſing his;—'twas his delight,
Where ſo, men curſe in vain.
Behold it ſhine in other ſhape,
As Tongues o'th' churches head;
Where ſeventeen languages in one
Voice did its glory ſpread.
By this great Star in this bright light
The Goſpel ſpread abroad;
Yea, e'en to us, for which lets each
One ſay, Prais'd be the Lord!
This Star blazed in Stephen's heart,
Seraphic fir'd his tongue;
Gave him a ſight of Itſelf, when
His dying ſong he ſung.

Twas this Star lighted Paul, when he
Was haſting for to ſlay
The church and people of the Lord,
Did intercept his way,
This Star in Viſion did rebuke
Peter's credulous doubts;
Sent him unto Cornelius, where
Salvation's horn he ſhouts.
This Star did him from priſon light,
To where ſaints ſing and pray;
Made him ſufficient lambs to feed,
And ſheep,—led far away.
This Star's light made Paul and Silas,
Whoſe backs with ſtripes was ſore,
With chearful voice ſing praiſe to God,
—From hence the barren bore.
'Cauſe this Star had much people where
Paul was called to preach;
It by him ſtood and bid not fear,
For no harm ſhould him reach.
See this Star light Philip to join
The Ethiopian's car;
Who by it taught, rejoiced in
This peaceful heavenly Star.
This Star lighted each act of the
Apoſtles on record;
Rais'd and ſettled the churches, who
Confeſt it for its Lord.
This Star ſhines thro' the epiſtles of
Paul, James, Peter, Jude, John;
And for its ultimate glory.
Read the Revelation.
This Star's the brightneſs and glory
Of Zion's Lord and God;
Expreſs image of his perſon,
Who rules with iron rod.
This Star's with its own glory fill'd,
From none borrows its light;

To ſet forth its glory doth both
JAH and SPIRIT delight.
Thus in this Star doth bodily
All the whole Godhead dwell;
And thus its fulneſs ſeen and prov'd,
Other Gods to excel.
What tho' of Lords and Gods there be
Many, men to deceive;
This Star's our God, if we aright
The Faith in Chriſt believe.
This Star makes meet for heaven, and here
For every gift and grace;
Gives wiſdom, teaches how to act
In every time and place.
If poor, let's it a bleſſing count,
O'th' rich for to receive;
If rich, an honour it eſteem
The poor's wants to relieve.
Thus givers and receiver both
This Star's name glorify;
As lights ſet up upon a hill,
Shew the cauſe why it d,'d.
In doing thus this Star ſheds forth
His comfortable ray;
Tells the rewards of Faith and Love,
He'll give another day.
Know that its power alone 'tis can
From damnation preſerve;
Teach you his will, who're by his word
Call'd Him to fear and ſerve.
'Twill come and ſhine again, as 'twas
Told when it up did go;
It rays ſhall then clear all the ſaints
Strike the wicked with woe.
Lord, ſhield us from the place where this
Bright Star doth never ſhine;
But where thy wrath and vengeance reſts,
'Mongſt thoſe who ne'er were thine.

Where's no water to cool their tongue,
Nought to aſſwage their grief,
Once deaf to all this Star's entreats,
He's ſo to their relief.
'Tis true, we juſtly may it fear,
By merit that's our due;
But ſince his Star h s roſe again,
Let bleſſed hope enſue,
And let this Star, O Lord, ariſe
I'th' Reader's, Writer's heart;
That in its glorious orb we may
Have our eternal part.
And with our fellow ſaints there join
In their exulting ſongs
Of glory to the Lamb once ſlain,
With kindreds, nations, tongues:
Who from beginning to the end,
Was, is, ſhall be ador'd
By all who e'er ſincerely held
One Faith, Baptiſm Lord.
If ſo, the praiſe ſhall all be thine,
(No true deſert have we)
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghoſt,
Bleſſed Eternal THREE! ! !
O may this ſtar our Nation guide,
And all its Foes confound;
Preſerve our King and all the Friends,
Which daily Him ſurround:
May It unite Its Power and Strength
To quell all helliſh Plots;
Cloath him with Shame, and make us own
By Thee all Victory's got:
That We thy People and thy Flock,
Now thus by thee defended;
May here begin thoſe Songs of Praiſe,
That never ſhall be ended.

FINIS.